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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 24 July 1992 from the representatives of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the document entitled "Managua Agenda", which the Presidents of the Central American countries agreed to at the twelfth Summit held in Managua on 4 and 5 June 1992.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

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ANNEX

Managua Agenda adopted by the Presidents of the Central American countries at the twelfth Summit held in Managua on 4 and 5 June 1992

With the aim of bequeathing to Central American generations better conditions on the road towards the improvement of democratic institutions, integration and economic and social development, and seizing the historic opportunity afforded by the new era that has dawned in the region to strengthen the idea of a Central America united in the face of the challenges of the twentieth century, the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

HEREBY AGREE:

1. To affirm the need to make the necessary preparations for the proper and efficient entry into operation of the Central American Integration System (SICA), giving that organization a practical structure that will ensure the viability of its operational nature.

Accordingly, we resolve to establish the Preparatory Commission for the implementation of the Tegucigalpa Protocol, with the organization and functions described in the decision attached hereto.

2. To renew the Security Commission's mandate to continue the negotiations entrusted to it, asking it to go more deeply into the issues relating to arms trafficking and confidence-building. To these ends, to determine that such negotiations must have as their basic parameters the establishment of ceilings and of a verification and control mechanism. Similarly, the Commission will take into account, in its deliberations, all proposals submitted with regard to security.

3. To instruct the Security Commission to foster the establishment and, as appropriate, strengthening of assistance, cooperation and coordination mechanisms designed to wipe out illegal traffic in arms in Central America.

4. To improve the democratic institutions and mechanisms for guaranteeing human rights in Central America and to underscore the strengthening of the judiciary power, the administration of justice and the electoral bodies as priority areas.

5. To emphasize the importance of continuing further with policies of national reconcilitation and the importance of the contribution which National Commissions for National Reconciliation can make in those countries which so request.

6. To instruct the Executive Commission to prepare a joint Central American position for the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993.

7. To emphasize the importance of the participation of all the countries of Central America in encouraging the new trends in the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which are intended to give greater weight in that Movement to issues relating to democracy, human rights and development, with a view to strengthening the Movement's role in the establishment of a new international order. To instruct the Executive Commission to work out a joint position on this issue.

8. To ask the Executive Commission to put the necessary measures into practice to give the permanent Central American commission for the eradication of the illicit traffic in drugs an appropriate legal framework and to seek to obtain resources for the operation of its secretariat.

9. To reiterate the importance of the Central American Agreement regarding candidacies, which was adopted at the San Salvador summit, as the appropriate and sole mechanism for the coordination and participation of and regional support for Central American candidates, implementation of which is the exclusive responsibility of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, with a view to progressing towards the achievement of broad representation of Central America in international organizations.

10. To instruct the Executive Commission to coordinate a meeting of national and regional authorities responsible for combating drug trafficking for the purpose of exchanging views for the adoption of measures aimed at preventing the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, following the suggestion made at the seminar on armed and security forces in Central America, held from 26 to 28 May 1992, in Costa Rica. To thank the Prime Minister of Belize for his offer to host such a meeting in 1992 in his country, and to accept the offer.

Also, to encourage the adoption of ever more effective legislative, technical and administrative measures in order to prevent the laundering of money and other goods derived from the traffic in drugs, taking into consideration the work done in this area by the permanent Central American commission for the eradication of the illicit traffic in drugs and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Likewise, to initiate the study of international instruments on mutual legal assistance in this area.

11. To appeal to the international community to increase its support for democracy and peace in Central America, by providing greater resources for their consolidation in order to ensure that the great material shortages of the region do not affect the process by diminishing and reversing what has been achieved. To underscore the importance of a new and leading role of international organizations in this area.

12. To emphasize the relevance of the speedy initiation of the review of the Luxembourg Agreement with a view to updating it, enriching it and extending its scope, in accordance with the guidelines adopted at San José VIII on 24 and 25 February 1992.

13. To urge the European Economic Community to welcome the Central American proposal so that the resources of the regional payments system may be directed towards supporting intra-zonal trade by establishing mechanisms, with the participation of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (CABEI), to finance intra- and extra-regional exports of products originating in the countries of Central America.

14. To appeal to the international community for urgent support for the implementation of projects in the energy sector, bearing in mind the grave energy crisis which the region is experiencing and its negative impact on the economies.

15. To underscore the importance of consolidating the process of institutional strengthening of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (CABEI) and the progress and achievements in its financial strategy by admitting partners from outside the region; accordingly they urge the member countries of the Group of Seven and the European countries to take the necessary steps so that they may be admitted to BCIE as partners from outside the region.

16. To instruct the competent authorities so that SIECA and CABEI, together with the Government of Panama, may prepare a study on the modalities enabling it to join these economic organizations of the Central American region in accordance with the guidelines of its ongoing modernization and economic development plan and the requirements of gradual and complementary participation in the process of integration and regional development of Central America.

17. To underscore, in the context of the Association for Democracy and Development in Central America (ADD), the Central American initiative to submit outlines of specific projects in areas to which the region attaches priority, at the second plenary meeting held in Ottawa, Canada, as a token of the leading role which Central American countries play within the Association. Also, to thank the partners from outside the region for the support they have given to this forum and to appeal to member countries of ADD to support implementation of projects in the areas of administration of justice, electoral bodies, human rights, legislative institutions, resettlement of persons affected by internal conflicts and clearing and destruction of mines and also in projects in the area of development.

18. In view of the forthcoming plenary meeting of ADD, which is to be held in the Republic of El Salvador in September 1992, to appeal to cooperating countries and to the international financial community to increase needed cooperation with the region, inviting them to attend the meeting, for which purpose priority has been given to specific projects of interest to Central America in the areas of democracy and development.

To urge the ministers responsible for economic integration and regional development to intensify work leading to the holding of the world conference on trade and investment in Central America scheduled for 1993 in the Republic of Honduras, which is one of the activities being prepared in ADD. Also, to invite the private sector of the region to participate actively in the identification and formulation of trade and investment programmes and projects.

19. To underscore the initiative of institutionalizing meetings with the Group of Three, consisting of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, and to instruct the Executive Commission to prepare a calendar of meetings, both at the ministerial and at the technical level.

20. To express its satisfaction at the progress made in the negotiations of the Central American countries, on the basis of the agreement on economic complementarity with Mexico, signed in the city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez. Also, to instruct the competent Central American authorities to move ahead with the other programmes contained in the above-mentioned agreement.

21. To instruct the competent authorities jointly to take the necessary steps with the Government of Venezuela to spur negotiation of a basic agreement on trade and investment with that country in order to implement the guidelines set forth at the Presidential Summit in San Salvador.

22. To hail the first meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 29 to 31 January 1992 as a dialogue of historic importance for the region and one that opens new possibilities for integration and for expanding their economic, commercial and cultural ties. In particular, to instruct the Executive Commission to take steps aimed at strengthening the so-called consultation forum.

23. To intensify relations with the Rio Group through the Central American representatives in the Group, in order to expand and enhance political cooperation between the two groups of countries and develop common positions and mutual support in the fields of economic and technical cooperation.

24. In connection with the item on relations with the Republic of China, to emphasize the significance of the Mixed Cooperation Commission established at the Tegucigalpa Summit and the presence of Foreign Minister Frederick F. Chien at the present meeting, as an expression of the importance they attach to such relations, which is evidenced by the meeting scheduled to be held in Taipei on 8 and 9 September 1992.

25. To instruct the ministers responsible for economic integration and regional development to pursue their efforts to review and update the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration and to adjust its provisions to the new economic and political conditions obtaining in the countries of the region.

26. To endorse the recommendation of the senior economic policy groups ("economic cabinets") of the countries of the Central American isthmus to the effect that the different central banks should gear their activities primarily to guaranteeing financial stability through the setting of monetary, foreign exchange and credit policies; should restrict financing to the public sector; should allow interest rates to be set by the market without distortions and maintain realistic rates of exchange; should eliminate subsidized credit and other operations that are not properly part of their functions so as to avoid a recrudescence of inflationary pressures and thereby ensure that such policies are neutral in terms of their impact on the economies of the other countries of the area in the medium and long term.

27. To support the intention of the Presidents of the central banks of the Central American countries to implement the Agreement adopted at Antigua, Guatemala, of 20 March 1992, on the strengthening of trade relations between the Central American countries, which would allow payments in intraregional commercial transactions to be made in the different national currencies, the United States dollar or other strong currencies on a barter basis or in any other manner approved by the monetary authorities of the countries concerned, without the intervention of the central banks.

To urge the Presidents of the central banks of the Central American countries to take such steps as they deem necessary to create domestic monetary conditions in each country to ensure stability in the value of their currencies in a framework of flexible foreign exchange markets so as to make for the effective use of the various currencies, without any bias in favour of or against any given currency.

28. To urge the Presidents of the central banks of the Central American countries to accelerate procedures for the ratification of the Agreement establishing the Central American Monetary Council at an early date in order to vest the Council with the international juridical personality it needs to play a part in the Central American economic integration process.

29. The ministers responsible for Central American economic integration and regional development, the Ministers of Finance and the Presidents of the central banks of the countries of the region should, as soon as possible, consider the adoption of a special and realistic mechanism for arriving at a practical settlement, which would include a plan for the renegotiation of Nicaragua's intraregional debt.

30. To reiterate the urgent need to establish a regional forum for dialogue on and support for Central American integration in which individuals and bodies from both the private and public sectors would participate, with the aim of coordinating activities that can help to usher in a new stage in the regional integration process. In this connection, the concerns expressed by the Central American Committee for Inter-Agency Coordination (CACI) have been noted with interest.

To convene the second plenary meeting of the Coordinating Commission for Central American Development (CCDCA) and to expand the national delegations to five members including representatives of Governments, from both the political and economic sectors, the private sector, and the business, academic and trade union communities, at least one of whom should be a member of the Sanford Commission.

31. To call upon the bodies concerned to step up their efforts to bring to a conclusion activities which are under way and to urge final approval of the regulations on restrictive business practices and escape clauses.

32. To commission the Meeting of Ministers of Transport (REMITRAN) to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the regional investment plan for the transport sector for the 1990s (PRODECA), in particular feasible projects relating to highways and railways of importance to the region and the rehabilitation and operation of freight consolidation port facilities in conjunction with a regional air transport policy to foster and promote Central American integration, tourism and foreign trade.

33. To underscore the importance of the resolution adopted by the Central American Parliament on road safety for the carriage of persons and goods on Central American highways and to instruct REMITRAN and other competent authorities to proceed, within the suggested time-frames and on the basis of the recommended approaches, to draw up a regional plan for road safety and to establish a single title of ownership for motor vehicles.

34. To request cooperating countries and international agencies to participate in the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) and to maintain the activities necessary to bring the process to completion with the full incorporation of the citizens affected in civilian life.

To endorse the Declaration of the CIREFCA Follow-up Committee, issued in Managua on 12 May 1992, especially the request to the cooperating countries to continue their efforts to help find permanent solutions to the problem of uprooted inhabitants within the framework of CIREFCA.

35. To reaffirm the commitment to carry out a strategy that will improve the quality of life of families living in poverty, ensuring that public assistance schemes are linked to medium-term national programmes and projects and that the latter serve to improve management capacity in the social sector and promote institution-building.

36. To designate the Regional Social Affairs Commission (CRAS) as the regional forum for the coordination of efforts of the senior social policy groups ("social cabinets") and human development activities at the regional level, and the Central American Human Development Commission (CCDH) as the body whose functions are limited to support for and follow-up to the specific human development project for the region in accordance with the guidelines laid down by CRAS.

To recommend that the minister representing each country in CRAS should also be a member of CCDH and that each country should appoint the representative and spokesman of its senior social policy group ("social cabinet") as its representative in CRAS.

To urge international agencies to support the social welfare programmes and projects in the region.

37. To support development plans in the areas of education, culture and occupational and technical training institutes, emphasizing the adoption of national policies and strategies which are in keeping with Central American integration.

38. To instruct the Central American Housing and Human Settlements Council to submit to the Central American Presidents, for their approval, a plan of work including a housing and human settlements development programme.

39. To request governmental cultural institutions to establish compatible mechanisms for monitoring the circulation of cultural property and protecting it in such a way as to ensure that it is not removed from the Central American region.

40. To strengthen efforts to protect the family and the rights of the child and to secure financial resources from cooperation partners; likewise, to undertake efforts to ensure the observance of the agreements concluded within the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

41. To support the basic objectives of the regional programme entitled "Women, the environment and development", and the search for a new model of development incorporating the general focus on programme planning and implementation.

42. To reaffirm the plan entitled "Central America, health and peace: towards development and democracy", and to recommend the implementation of the proposals adopted by the Second Meeting of the Council of Central American Ministers of Health (COMISCA), within the framework of the Eighth Meeting of the Central American Health Sector (RESSCA), supported by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

To instruct COMISCA to develop a plan to combat cholera, and to incorporate this plan into the subregional external cooperation projects, identifying target areas in accordance with the specific features of each country, and, likewise, to set up a regional epidemiological monitoring system for the battle against cholera which can facilitate exchanges of experience and technical cooperation.

43. To instruct the Central American ministers of agriculture and livestock to strengthen, both technically and financially, the secretariat of the

Council of Ministers of Agriculture of the Central American Isthmus (CORECA-VI), so that the agricultural sector can fulfil the tasks assigned to it and the commitments undertaken at the regional level.

44. To emphasize the importance of the Central American Agenda for Environment and Development, which was drawn up with the participation of the main social sectors in Central America and which constitutes an indispensable guideline and focal point for regional environmental stewardship.

45. To instruct the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) to intensify, within the framework of the agreement on the preservation of biodiversity and the protection of priority forest areas of Central America, signed on today's date, scientific and technical cooperation in this area among the countries of the region.

46. Likewise, to instruct CCAD to expedite the establishment of regional environmental monitoring systems, data banks and administrative mechanisms which can provide for the effective monitoring of the disposal and transport of hazardous wastes and other toxic substances.

47. To urge the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) to establish, in accordance with the existing financial mechanisms and in coordination with CCAD, a Central American fund for environment and development, as a mechanism for managing and financing the projects in this area at the regional level.

48. To express satisfaction at and support for the agreement signed by CCAD and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America on the implementation of the Central American georeferenced information system and to instruct CCAD to carry out the actions required for the development of this project.

49. To agree that the preservation of Central American biodiversity, especially the biodiversity of its tropical jungles, is not only a contribution to the preservation of the world genetic endowment, but also to global climate equilibrium, because of the size of our jungles and their importance in producing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide, and that our countries deserve new and additional financial resources which can assist them in defraying the growing costs of protecting these resources.

50. To express support for the establishment of a global programme for technology transfers from the developed countries to the developing countries, on preferential and non-commercial terms, especially in the field of agro-industrial and industrial re-engineering, biotechnology and environmentally sustainable energy production.

51. To welcome the signing of the bilateral agreement between Honduras and Nicaragua on the establishment of a solidarity reserve.

52. To instruct the ministers responsible for Central American economic integration and regional development to review and adopt, as soon as possible, the outline of a regional project for investment in the scientific and technological development of the productive sectors, prepared by the Commission for the Scientific and Technological Development of Central America and Panama (CTCAP), and to entrust them with ensuring that, in due course, the representatives of the countries of the region to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of American States (OAS) and other cooperation organizations secure financial and technical support for the elaboration of the respective investment project. At the same time, we designate CTCAP, which hereafter shall consist of the ministers responsible in each country for the science and technology sector, or their designated representatives, to conduct follow-up of this project, as an institutional forum responsible for coordinating regional scientific and technological policy in harmony with the policies and programmes defined by the ministers responsible for Central American economic integration and regional development.

53. To instruct the ministers responsible for the migration policies of the Central American countries to convene a meeting for the purpose of promoting efforts which can lead to the adoption of agreements in the following areas:

(a) The elimination of visa requirements for all citizens of Central America;

(b) The adoption of a common passport format;

(c) The simplification of migration formalities between the countries of the region, including fees, procedures and working hours, among other mechanisms.

54. With the aim of improving the mechanisms for coordination and study of proposals submitted to the Meeting of the Central American Presidents, to require that such proposals be transmitted through the interim secretariat no later than 30 days prior to the convening of a Summit.

55. To express support for the organization of ministers and secretaries of communications and the media established at San Pedro Sulas, Honduras, in September 1991, and to encourage them to strengthen their efforts to promote the values of peace, democracy, integration and development, adopted by the Central American Presidents at their Summits.

56. To extend an invitation to the President of the Dominican Republic to participate as an observer in the Thirteenth Meeting of the Central American Presidents, to be held in Panama.